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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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AUGUST MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 13th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

This is the annual occasion upon which the returning vacationers furnish the entire entertainment, and it is hoped that many will be present and that each one will have something to relate in the way of experiences with birds.

The opening account will be furnished by Dr. E. Goodman, who will tell us of his observations at Mather and Hetch Hetchy, whence he has recently returned.

* * *

AUGUST FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, August 16th, to Fairfax and over the old grade to Bon Tempe and the head of Alpine Lake, returning *via* Lake Lagunitas to Ross, a distance of about ten miles.

Purchase round trip tickets to Fairfax, 60c, and take Sausalito ferry leaving San Francisco at 8:45 a.m. Bring lunch and canteen.

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OUR MIGRATORY WILD FOWL

At the May meeting of the Association, reference was made to the unaccountable action of the President of the Izaak Walton League in bringing forward a proposal nullifying the underlying principles upon which the Game Refuge-Public Shooting Grounds Bill was based as the result of years of careful thought, conference and tireless labor on the part of representatives of every class of citizen concerned with the question of conserving and developing our wild fowl resources, not only for the present generations but as well for those to come.

The proposal carried a bait for short-sighted sportsmen by eliminating the one dollar federal license as the source of funds, relying upon congressional appropriations of forty-five millions or more for the acquisition and administration of refuges and the apportionment of such funds to state commissions for expenditure, instead of providing the unified control without which no solution of the problem is possible.

The vital objections to such a course are two:

First. The scheme is fundamentally wrong and futile.

Second. With the terms of the present measure, H.R. 745, thoroughly threshed out and satisfactory to both branches of Congress and to an overwhelming majority of sportsmen, conservationists and game authorities, the introduction and serious consideration of a raw new measure would inevitably delay and hamper the solution of what everyone recognizes as an urgent question.

It is exceedingly difficult to ascribe good faith to such a proposition.

The President's Conference on Outdoor Recreation is composed of 135 member national organizations, devoted to some interest or activity related to the main purpose of the Conference as stated by President Coolidge in addressing its first general convention in May, 1924. It functions through a General Committee of five members of the President's Cabinet, a General Council, and an Executive Committee.

In the course of the May, 1924, convention, the Conference formally endorsed the Game Refuge-Public Shooting Grounds Bill as a vitally important measure.

At a special session of the Council, on May 28, 1925, the whole question of the status of the bill was canvassed, and the following resolutions were adopted without a dissenting vote:

Whereas, by the treaty with Great Britain, the United States obligated itself to protect and conserve the birds migrating between Canada and the United States, and

Whereas, in enacting such treaty, the Government of the United States is bound in all honor and good faith to take all reasonable means and to enact such legislation as may be necessary effectively to protect and conserve the migratory birds, and

Whereas, by the growth of population and the drainage of many areas, which were formerly the feeding grounds of the birds in their migrations, such feeding grounds have been reduced to such an extent that it is difficult for these birds to find the food necessary for their sustenance, and

Whereas, by reason of this treaty, the duty of protecting and conserving all migratory birds has been placed upon the Federal Government in the first instance, and

Whereas, such action alone is not sufficient to accomplish the purposes of the treaty in protecting and conserving the birds in their respective migration, and

Whereas, one of the reasonable means of making the treaty effective is to create feeding grounds and refuges for the birds, *Be it*

Resolved, that the Executive Committee of the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation report with its approval and endorsement to the Conference to be next held in Washington, the following:

Be It Resolved, that in enacting a treaty with Great Britain, for the protection and conserving of the birds migrating between the United States and Canada, the United States pledged itself in all honor and good faith to enact such reasonable legislation as will insure the success of the purposes declared in, and the objects sought by, the treaty; and that the only way to conserve the migratory birds mentioned in the treaty is by providing by act of Congress means for and the authority to acquire feeding grounds and sanctuaries during their migrations and breeding seasons within the United States, and *Be it*

Further Resolved, that the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation heartily re-endorses the principle that those who enjoy the sport of hunting should contribute to the maintenance of that sport by paying a hunting license fee, and *Be it*

Further Resolved, that the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation re-approves the principles as outlined in H. R. 745 as passed by the House of Representatives at its last session; and *Be it*

Further Resolved, that the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation deprecates any and all attempts to inject local or sectional questions into the movement for securing such necessary legislation in furtherance of a treaty solemnly entered into by the United States with a friendly and neighboring government, and *Be it*

Further Resolved, that the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation pledge itself to use all legitimate means at the next session of Congress to further the enactment of a bill similar to H. R. 745.

AMERICAN EGRET

On April 6, 1925, while driving a popular make of car at the highest possible speed, (which was well within the legal limit), my attention was called to a pure white bird in the marshes between Benicia and Cordelia. The bird was distant about five hundred feet from the highway and I switched off the ignition, applied the brake gently and came to a stop without alarming it.

I was driving a closed car with the windows down, and with an uncanny lack of foresight, had failed to remove my binoculars from a grip in the back of the car. Raising the window and hanging a paper over it with the utmost caution, I got out on the opposite side, unlocked the back and unpacked the grip to secure the glasses, which finally revealed to me an American Egret, the only one I have ever seen in the United States, although twenty years ago I found them common in parts of Mexico.

Though resembling the great blue heron in size and shape, these egrets show in their walk none of the stealthy movements of the heron. In looking through my modest library, I find that most of the authors confine themselves to brief statements of the name, color and dimensions of egrets, but it was my good fortune to receive, a few days ago, a copy of Dr. Elliott Coues' invaluable book on the "Birds of the Northwest", and I am happy to find in it not only much information not previously available to me, but also a great many records from what was then the Territory of the Dakotas, and over the same range I rode for some years.

In this work, Dr. Coues states that all egrets are herons, although all herons are not egrets, and he ends the rather lengthy chapter with distributional notes, as follows:

"The white egret is rather a delicate bird, preferring warm weather, and consequently restricted in geographical distribution. In New England it is only a rare visitor, and is not known to breed. I may here observe that a certain *northward* migration of some southerly birds at this season is nowhere more noticeable than among the herons and their allies, the migrants consisting chiefly of birds hatched that year, which unaccountably stray in what seems to us the wrong direction. Massachusetts is the northernmost record of the species in New England. It is rather decidedly a maritime bird, like its smaller relative, *ardea candididissima*, and seldom penetrates any distance inland except along our largest rivers—the Mississippi, Rio Grande, and Colorado. I never saw it in the interior of the Carolinas, along the coasts of which I found it very abundant, and throughout the low, flat, marshy or swampy districts. On the Pacific coast it is not recorded north of California. I met with it frequently in southern California near the coast, and on a few occasions on the Mojave river, not far from Soda Lake, perhaps rather an exceptional inland locality, as the desert environing on all sides but one, must be a great barrier. The Arizonan birds are gathered chiefly along the Colorado, particularly its lower portions."

Dr. Grinnell defines its status as a fairly common visitant to favoring localities in the interior valleys, occurring only in summer in the northeastern sections of the state, but irrespective of season elsewhere, and a few are reported as nesting recently at Clear Lake, Modoc County.

CARL R. SMITH.

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT MAKES THE RULES. WE CANNOT CHANGE THEM.

The attention of members and others on mailing list is again called to the fact that mail matter of class lower than letters will not be forwarded by the postal authorities unless full postage is again placed upon the envelopes. The return request on our envelopes brings each month, especially in the vacation season, to the secretary, copies of the GULL which were not accepted at the address given nor re-stamped for forwarding. In most cases, nothing can be done except to await complaint that the bulletins have not been received. The secretary will be saved much trouble and some unnecessary expense if advice be sent promptly as to changes in address, or arrangements be made to obviate the return of bulletins which have been properly addressed by her.

* * *

JULY FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, July 12th, to Muir Woods and Big Lagoon. This is perhaps the most strenuous of our regular walks, with a fairly stiff climb going and another one on the return route. We climbed the steps from Mill Valley station, and up the dairy gulch to the top of the ridge. Thence by fire trail down past "All-In" to Muir Woods, where lunch was eaten among the big trees. Wending our way down Frank Valley, Big Lagoon was reached about three o'clock. An hour was spent at the beach and the return made along the trail in the bottom of the gulch followed by the stage road to Sausalito, leaving the road at the top of the ridge to follow the trail down Coyote creek through Little City Farms to Almonte station and reaching San Francisco at 7:00 p.m.

The day was beautiful and bright, and a strong westerly wind made the walking fine, albeit the loitering at the beach was rather a cool manoeuver. There was no outstanding feature in bird observations although many fine opportunities were afforded for observing old friends.

Birds encountered were: California murre, western, California and Heermann gulls and many cormorants at sea; great blue and black-crowned night herons, curlew and California quail; turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, young flicker, Anna and Allen hummers; black phoebe, western flycatcher, coast and California jays and crow; bi-colored redwing, meadowlark, Brewer blackbird, purple finch and linnet; green-backed goldfinch, Nuttall, chipping, rufous-crowned and song sparrows; San Francisco and California towhees, black-headed grosbeak, lazuli bunting and cliff swallow; warbling vireo, lutescent and pileolated warblers, chickadee and Vigors wren; bush and wren-tits and russet-backed thrush. Forty-two species.

Members in attendance were Mesdemoiselles Lindemann and Nienburg; Mesdames Kibbe and Parry; Messrs. Bremer, Elmore, Grueningen, Kibbe and Parry. As guests, Miss Laura Mitchell, Mr. Frank Cliff, Master Bremer and a little friend of Miss Lindemann. Nine members and four guests.

A. S. KIBBE.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p.m., in Assembly Hall of San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets.

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